

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CU-04 SS-15 NSC-10 CPR-02 SCI-06 NASA-04

EB-11 COME-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03

RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 /101 R

DRAFTED BY AF/C:COHEN:OSM

8-1-73 X22080

APPROVED BY AF/C:APALMER

CU/AF:O'BRIEN

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R 021603Z AUG 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 151993

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MA

SUBJECT: RATSIRAKA VISIT

1. FOREIGN MINISTER RATSIRAKA DEPARTED WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK FOR PARIS EVENING OF AUGUST 1. EXPECTS TO RETURN TANANARIVE ON AUGUST 6. LATTER TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF VISIT BY AF/C DIRECTOR COHEN WHO WAS ESCORT OFFICER.

2. NORFOLK VISIT--VISIT TO CINCLANT FACILITIES COULD NOT HAVE BEEN HANDLED MORE EFFICIENTLY. THERE WAS WARMTH AND OUTSTANDING HOSPITALITY THROUGHOUT, FROM OPENING HONORS CEREMONY ON JULY 24, TO BRIEFING BY FRENCH-SPEAKING NAVAL CAPTAIN, LUNCH ON BOARD AIRCRAFT CARRIER FORRESTAL HOSTED BY ADMIRAL FINNERAN, HELICOPTER TOUR OF TIDEWATER AREA, DINNER HOSTED BY ADMIRAL PLATE, AND DEPARTURE BY HELICOPTER TO WASHINGTON FOLLOWING DAY. THERE WERE NO VISIBLE INCIDENTS OR PROBLEMS WHICH COULD EXPLAIN RATSIRAKA'S STATEMENT TO VOA REPORTED TANANARIVE 1020.

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3. NASA VISITS AT GODDARD AND CAPE KENNEDY--DETAILS BEING

TRANSMITTED SEPTEL. FROM POINT OF VIEW OF OVERALL ATMOSPHERE, RATSIRAKA APPEARED BE MORE PLEASED WITH THIS PORTION OF VISIT THAN ANY OTHER APART FROM OFFICIAL MEETINGS AT DEPT.

4. ORLANDO, FLORIDA--JULY 27 VISIT TO A.J. DUDA AND SONS CATTLE RANCH WAS VERY WORTHWHILE. BOTH RATSIRAKA AND RATSIMANDRESY WERE VERY INTERESTED IN TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF RAISING BRAHMIN CATTLE WHICH ARE SAME FAMILY AS MALAGASY ZEBU. THERE WAS EXTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS ABOUT CROSS BREEDS, FORAGE AND PASTURAGE, AND MARKETING. RATSIRAKA SAID HE WOULD SERIOUSLY CONSIDER SENDING MALAGASY CITIZENS TO DUDA RANCH FOR ON-THE-JOB TRAINING. DUDA REP SAID HE WOULD INVESTIGATE POSSIBILITIES OF INVESTMENT IN MADAGASCAR.

5. NEW ORLEANS--RATSIRAKA AND RATSIMANDRESY HAD INTERESTING DINNER EVENING JULY 28 WITH DR. RICHARD ARELLANO, DIRECTOR INTERNATIONAL MARKETING INSTITUTE, LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY. DISCUSSION CENTERED ON ROLE OF THE STATE IN PROMOTING PRIVATE ENTERPRISE IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD. RATSIRAKA SAID HE FOUND DISCUSSION EXTREMELY WORTHWHILE. HE WAS ALSO INTERESTED IN OPERATION OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE MART OF NEW ORLEANS, AND REQUESTED MR. JOSEPH TRENTIN, ASSISTANT MANAGING DIRECTOR TO SEND HIM APPROPRIATE DOCUMENTATION.

6. LOUISIANA OIL INDUSTRY--SUNDAY, JULY 29 DEVOTED TO VISITS TO OFFSHORE OIL EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION INSTALLATIONS UNDER AUSPICES CHEVRON OIL COMPANY. TRAVEL WAS BY AMPHIBIOUS AIRCRAFT AND HELICOPTER. VISITORS HAD OPPORTUNITY VISIT EVERY ASPECT OF OFFSHORE OPERATIONS, AND MANY QUESTIONS WERE ASKED. BOTH APPEARED QUITE PLEASED.

7. LOUISIANA RICE GROWING--MONDAY, JULY 30, VISITORS WENT TO LSU RICE EXPERIMENT STATION IN CROWLEY, LOUISIANA. THERE WERE IN-DEPTH DISCUSSIONS ABOUT RICE GROWING METHODS, YIELDS, VARIETIES, AND MARKETING. RATSIRAKA REQUESTED CONTACT WITH RICE MILLER FOR POSSIBLE PURCHASE 70,000
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TONS MEDIUM QUALITY LONG GRAINED RICE. HE WAS GIVEN QUOTATION OF DOLS 14.25 FOB MILL FOR NUMBER THREE RICE AVAILABLE IN LATE SEPTEMBER. HE SAID HE WOULD FOLLOW UP WITH ADDITIONAL SPECIFICATIONS, AND MIGHT ASK AMB. RAHARIJOANA TO RETURN TO CROWLEY FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS. MAYOR JOE GIELEN OF CROWLEY RECEIVED MINISTER AND PRESENTED KEY TO CITY. DURING EXCHANGE OF REMARKS, RATSIRAKA SAID THAT REAL POWER IN TODAY'S WORLD BELONGS

TO THE COUNTRY THAT CAN PRODUCE FOOD FOR EVERYONE AND
EXPORT IT AS WELL. US IS BY THAT DEFINITION MOST POWERFUL
COUNTRY IN WORLD.

8. IN WASHINGTON JULY 31 AND AUGUST 1, RATSIRAKA DEVOTED
TIME TO MEETINGS WITH PRIVATE SECTOR REPRESENTATIVES,
ESPECIALLY RICE MILLERS ASSOCIATION. ADDITIONAL DETAILS
WILL BE SENT BY MEMCON. ROGERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE151993
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: COHEN:OSM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS PALMER
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730862/aaaabtdx.tel
Line Count: 123
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09-Jan-2002 by martinjw>; APPROVED <26 FEB 2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RATSIRAKA VISIT
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, MA, (RATSIRAKA)
To: TANANARIVE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005